In the claims

The following amendments are made with respect to the claims in the International application PCT/DE2004/000089.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claims

1 (Currently amended). A method for preventing or treating a ~~Use of interleukin-18 for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention, reduction and treatment of~~ disorder[[s]] of the skin associated with damage induced by UV-radiation, wherein said method comprises administering, to a patient in need of such treatment, an effective amount of interleukin-18.

2 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to claim 1, wherein the disorder is a disorder that can be alleviated and/or prevented by induction of the nucleotide excision repair (NER) pathway.

3 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[–2]], wherein the disorder is selected from the group [[comprising]] consisting of sunburn, inflammation, skin aging and skin cancer.

4 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of the foregoing~~ claim[[s]] 1, wherein the disorder is associated with apoptosis.

5 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of the foregoing~~ claim[[s]] 1, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 220 nm to 350 nm.

6 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of the foregoing~~ claim[[s]] 1, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 250 nm to 330 nm.

7 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of the foregoing~~ claim[[s]] 1, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 290 nm to 320 nm.

8 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 5[[-7]], wherein the UV-radiation originates from natural and/or artificial sunlight.

9 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein said patient is a mammal ~~Use according to any of the foregoing claims comprising an application of said medicament to a patient in need thereof~~.

10 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to claim 1 [[9]], wherein the application is systemic and/or topical.

11 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[9 – 10]], wherein the application occurs by way of application of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or by injection~~, preferably intracutaneous injection of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier~~.

12 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is selected from the group [[comprising]] consisting of liposomes, ointments, oils, cremes, emulsions and dispersions.

13 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 10 [[– 12]], wherein the topical application occurs in a dose range of from 1 ng/ml to 1000 ng/ml.

14 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 10[[-12]], wherein the systemic application occurs in a dose range of from 0.1 µg/kg bodyweight to 100 µg/kg bodyweight.

15 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to claim 14, wherein the application occurs once to eight times daily.

16 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 9 [[–15]], wherein the application occurs before, during and/or after a patient is exposed to UV-radiation.

17 (Currently amended). The method [[Use]] according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 9 [[–16]], wherein the patient ~~in need~~ is ~~a mammal, preferably~~ a human [[being]].

18 (New). The method, according to claim 11, wherein the application is by intracutaneous injection of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.